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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 8-19 and 21-33 are pending in the application. Claim 14 has been objected to. Claims 8-19 and 21-33 have been rejected. Claim 14 has been amended.

Addition of Cross-Reference

Applicants have added a cross-reference to the parent PCT application and its priority application.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 14 due to a typographical error.

Claim 14 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendment to the claim adds no new matter.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8-15, 17, 19, 21-27, 29 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Garthwaite (US Patent 6,124,826).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, as Garthwaite does not teach nor suggest the present invention.

Garthwaite states:

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"In this embodiment of the navigation device, the target position is input by marking or handwritten input on the display. A special electronic input pen is provided for this purpose, which in itself is known. **Alternately**, the output unit 5 can be designed for voice output through a loudspeaker, while the input unit 3 can be designed for voice input through a microphone." (Col. 3, lines 53-59) (emphasis added)

Like Sawada (US Patent 5,754,430), discussed in the Response to the Office Action of December 31, 2001, Garthwaite considers these two types of input as **alternative embodiments** and not as two different inputs to a control unit. Garthwaite thus does not teach "a control unit able to receive said at least first command and at least one second command", as recited in claim 25. Nor does Garthwaite teach "controlling at least one appliance within a vehicle with at least one signal generated from recognition of voice and handwritten input" as recited in claim 33 since Garthwaite is designed with either voice input or handwritten input but not both.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 25 and 33 are allowable. Claims 8 – 15, 17, 19, 21 – 24, 26, 27 and 29 depend from, directly or indirectly, claim 25 and therefore, include all the limitations of that claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 8 – 15, 17, 19, 21 – 24, 26, 27 and 29 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to independent claims 25 and 33 and to claims 8 – 15, 17, 19, 21 – 24, 26, 27 and 29 dependent thereon.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 16 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Garthwaite as applied to claim 25.

Garthwaite has been discussed above. That discussion, in which the allowability of claim 25 was shown, is applicable here. Claims 16 and 30, dependent from claim 25, are also allowable. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 18, 31 and 32 under 35

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U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Garthwaite as applied to claim 25 and further in view of Obradovich (US 6,282,464)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

The combination of Garthwaite and Obradovich does not teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 25, nor does it teach or suggest all the limitations of dependent claims 18, 31 and 32. Garthwaite has been discussed above. That discussion is applicable here. Obradovich is also silent as to "a control unit able to receive said at least first command and at least one second command", as recited in claim 25, and therefore cannot cure the deficiencies of Garthwaite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

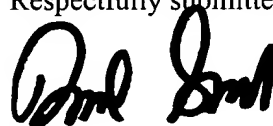
Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

The period for responding to the instant Office Action is set to expire on January 3, 2004. Accordingly, this response is being timely filed, and no fees are believed due. The United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account 501380 for any fee which is necessary in connection with the filing of this amendment and response.

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Favorable action on the present amendment and response is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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